

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 DOTE-00 PC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

SSO-00 /095 W

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R 090943Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7487

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: NO END IN SIGHT TO OIL TRUCKERS STRIKE

REF: LAGOS 0156

1. ACCORDING OIL COMPANY SOURCES, STRIKE NOT CONFINED TO LONG DISTANCE TRUCK DRIVERS BUT INVOLVES LAGOS AND PORT HARCOURT LOCAL DRIVERS AS WELL. HAVING TASTED POWER, DRIVERS ARE NOW DEMANDING PAY INCREASES EQUIVALENT TO THOSE BEING GIVEN CIVIL SERVANTS AS RESULT OF UDOJI COMMISSION REPORT (SEPTELS).

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2. ALL BUT VERY SMALL NUMBER OF OIL TRUCKS ARE OWNED AND

OPERATED BY PRIVATE CONTRACTORS (ONE SOURCE SAYS 99 PERCENT). SOME DRIVERS WILLING WORK, BUT STRIKERS HAVE ALREADY USED FORCE TO PREVENT OIL FROM GETTING THROUGH. ACTING MILITARY GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE HELD EMERGENCY MEETING JANUARY 7. ARMY AGREED ESCORT TRUCK CONVOYS AND PUT ARMED GUARDS ON INDIVIDUAL TRUCKS. BY AFTERNOON JANUARY 7, SOME PRODUCTS WERE REACHING AIRPORT AND STATIONS IN LAGOS AREA, BUT IT WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN IF ARMY PROTECTION WOULD ELIMINATE INTIMIDATION BY STRIKERS. IN ANY EVENT, NUMBER OF DRIVERS WILLING COOPERATE INSUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN NORMAL SUPPLY. TRAFFIC IN LAGOS NOTICEABLY REDUCED BUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY VEHICLES STILL OPERATE.

3. HOSPITALS AND OTHER VITAL CONSUMERS WILL BE AFFECTED BY JANUARY 8 IF RESUPPLY NOT MATERIALLY IMPROVED. IKEJA AIRPORT IS RECEIVING SOME JET FUEL, BUT OIL COMPANIES SAY THEY CAN GUARANTEE ONLY ONE OR TWO FLIGHTS IN ADVANCE. ACCORDING PRESS, TEN JETS INVOLVED IN HAJJ FLIGHTS ARE STRANDED AT KANO AIRPORT FOR LACK OF FUEL. FUEL STOCKS AT LAGOS/APAPA AND PORT HARCOURT ARE HIGH. RAIL CARS MOVING SOME FUEL TO INTERIOR. TANK SHIPS ENROUTE WITH IMPORTED PRODUCTS WILL HAVE TO BE DIVERTED IF STRIKE PERSISTS.

4. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR TAKEN NO NATIONWIDE ACTION, THOUGH OIL COMPANIES HAVE REQUESTED IMMEDIATE BACK-TO-WORK ORDER AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE UDOJI AWARDS ONCE TRUCKS BACK ON ROADS. MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ONE OIL COMPANY ESTIMATES TWO-THREE WEEKS REQUIRED BRING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BACK TO NORMAL EVEN IF ALL DRIVERS RETURN TO WORK TOMORROW. HE SAYS GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE AND MORE FORCEFUL ACTION REQUIRED, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT WILLINGNESS COMMANDER TRUCKS IF BACK-TO-WORK ORDER FAILS.

5. AMCONSUL IBADAN REPORTS THAT PUBLIC AND OTHER TRANSPORT THERE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY PARALYZED BY THE STRIKE.
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